

MINUTES
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Pearce, Vice Chairman Bair, Senators Cameron, Siddoway, Brackett, Heider, Tippetts, Stennett and Lacey

ABSENT/ EXCUSED:

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Pearce** called the meeting to order at 1:35 P./M.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: The first order of business was to consider the appointment of Linda Mitchell to the Lake Pend Oreille Basin Commission. **Senator Heider** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Linda Mitchell to the Lake Pend Oreille Basin Commission to the floor with recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Siddoway** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **unanimous voice vote**. **Senator Keough** will be the sponsor.

HCR 14 **Chairman Pearce** said this legislation, **HCR 14**, was discussed on Monday and it is now properly before the Committee.

MOTION: **Senator Siddoway** moved that **HCR 14** be held in Committee. **Senator Bair** seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Senator Cameron** made a substitute motion. He moved that **HCR 14** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lacey** seconded the motion.

The **Chairman** requested a **roll call vote**. Voting aye on the substitute motion were Senators Lacey, Tippetts, Brackett, Cameron, and Chairman Pearce (5). Voting nay were Senators Stennett, Heider, Siddoway, and Vice Chairman Bair (4). The motion carried. **Senator Cameron** will be the sponsor.

S 1155 **Mr. Norm Semanko**, Executive Director, Idaho Water Users Association (IWUA), presented **S 1155**. This legislation would authorize water districts to utilize available water district funds to increase the salaries of water district employees, without any impact on the state general fund. Districts that employ state employees are not allowed to increase their wages, but this legislation would accomplish that.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: **Mr. Lyle Swank**, Watermaster of Water District 1 (WD1), Idaho Falls, submitted written testimony in support of **S 1155**. His reasons are as follows:

- 1) The language change proposed by **S 1155** was supported by a sub-committee of the Committee of Nine.
- 2) It was then supported by the full Committee of Nine.
- 3) WD1 water users supported it at their annual meeting.
- 4) The reelected watermaster spoke in favor of it.
- 5) The IWUA also is supportive.

Some members of the Committee questioned the ramifications (if any) of increasing a state employee's wages. It was suggested that the employee could resign from the state position, or the employee could be reclassified for a higher level of pay.

MOTION: **Senator Tippets** moved that **S 1155** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion.

The **Chairman** requested a **roll call vote**. Voting aye on the motion were Senators Tippets, Heider, Brackett, Siddoway, Vice Chairman Bair and Chairman Pearce (6). Voting nay were Senators Lacey, Stennett, and Cameron (3). **Senator Tippets** will be the sponsor.

S 1156 **Mr. Semanko** presented **S 1156**. He stated that this legislation creates a process and procedures for allowing certain, limited types of irrigation districts to be partitioned into more than one irrigation district. It would also provide for a joint board of control.

MOTION: **Senator Stennett** moved that **S 1156** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Vice Chairman Bair** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **unanimous voice vote**. **Senator Stennett** will be the sponsor.

S 1157 **Mr. Semanko** stated that this legislation provides clarification regarding the persons and business entities that are allowed to vote in irrigation district elections. Certain limited liability companies (LLC) shall have the same rights and privileges as do natural persons.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Bair** moved that **S 1157** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Brackett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **unanimous voice vote**. **Vice Chairman Bair** will be the sponsor.

ADJOURNED: **Chairman Pearce** adjourned the meeting at 2:25 P.M.

Senator Pearce
Chairman

Juanita Budell
Secretary